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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9212
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0808
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4388
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 1272
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0172
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 6360
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9027
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2700
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2839

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002148

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2017
TAGS: [PARM](#) [MNUC](#) [UNGA](#) [IT](#)
SUBJECT: ITALY UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND DRAFT
RESOLUTION ON DE-ALERTING OF NUCLEAR FORCES

REF: STATE 140048

Classified By: Acting Political Minister-Counselor Jonathan Cohen for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Emanuele Farruggia, Italian MFA Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Nonproliferation on October 5. Farruggia said that the GOI had not yet had an opportunity to study New Zealand's draft resolution but that the EU as a whole was unlikely to support it if it appeared to be designed primarily for what he called "propagandistic" purposes. The EU had voted against a similar draft resolution introduced last year by India for this reason. Italy, as a non-nuclear power, is in favor of de-alerting in general, but recognizes that the U.S., France and the UK have already taken extensive measures to remove large portions of their arsenals from high-alert status. Countries like China, Pakistan and India are greater causes for concern, as the readiness status of their arsenals is either unknown or much higher. He noted that draft resolutions of this sort had troubling implications for the collective security of NATO members given the Alliance's reliance on the concept of extended deterrence. He said he would follow up with the Embassy once the GOI had a chance to review the text, but added that the clear opposition of the U.S. would not help New Zealand recruit supporters.
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